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IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA
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EDITORIAL

School Opens Again

The public schools open next week. If you have a boy or girl of school age in your home they will probably try to convince you that they regard the event as one of life's major disasters. They do not do a very good job of hating school. It seems put on. We believe it is.

The hatred of childhood for school and teacher and lessons is a traditional attitude each generation of youth seems to believe it must carry on. It is a relic of the day when school was a place of stern discipline, hard lessons taught the hard way, drab trudging along an uninviting path of learning.

Modern teaching methods and modern ideas of discipline , have changed all this. When you and I were young we were spanked, slapped, and in occasional instances roundly strapped under a "spare the rod and spoil the child" theory of education. A good spanking in the public schools in these days would arouse the community.

Education in our childhood was a simple proverder of the three "R's" with little of the seasoning of humor, project or play. You were given plain, unvarnished facts to memorize. If you had a good memory you were a good student. If not, you were a hopeless dullard. If you were a good student, you left the grades with a mass of unrelated facts that could be simpler had in a good almanac than in an untrained brain. Little was done to help you relate these facts to the problems of living, to develop that power of thinking for yourself in uncharted emergencies.

Strange, indeed, is the modern school to the grown up who remembers only his own school days. The first word he learned to spell was probably cat. The first word his child learns to spell may just as likely be Eskimo, his child will probably learn to read before he can say his ABC's by heart; he'll learn what a word means and how it relates to the facts of his existence almost as soon as he can spell it. And above all the grown-up visitor to the modern school will be impressed with the modern heresy that education is something that ought to be interesting instead of a sort of self-flagellation to subdue the mind and cow the spirit.

We wish we could go to school in these interesting days. We wouldn't stuff our minds with a number of dates and places, facts and figures long since forgotten. We would learn to use our brain as we use our hands, nota receptacle to carry things with but a tool to do things with. And above all school and the process of schooling would be a much more interesting place and process.

School begins next week. Your kids, interviewed on the subject, will probably declare that the event is the dark spot in an otherwise pleasant existence. Don't believe him. He LIKES to go to school . . if he doesn't, there's something wrong with him. —From Ashland Herald-Progress.

College football teams start practice sessions.

It's War At Last

Other matters, which seemed of importance a week ago, fade into nothingness in the shadow of the one tremendous, tragic and appalling fact that the second World War, long feared and dreaded, but which millions fatuously hoped might by some miracle be avoided, is here.

We call it a World War, though we earnestly hope it may be exclusively an Old World War, whose only reverberations in this hemisphere will be those which are incapable from any international conflict of first magnitude. We in common with the overwhelming majority of the American people, share and approve the sentiments expressed by President Roosevelt in his radio address Sunday night when he pledged: "As long as it remains within my power to prevent, there will be no blackout of peace in the United States." In this address Mr. Roosevelt emphasized once more his often expressed hatred of war and stressed the thought that there should be "no talk of America sending its armies to European fields."

The difficulties of preserving that neutrality which is highly desirable are not to be underestimated, however, and were not by the President in his thoughtful and restrained radio talk. Those difficulties have been heightened by the failure of Congress in the session recently closed to amend the existing neutrality laws in accord with the program which the President recommended and of which the events of the last few days have proved the wisdom.

Had the amendments then suggested by Mr. Roosevelt been adopted before the outbreak of war, his task would have been measurably lightened. The amendments are still in order, but their adoption after hostilities have commenced will subject this country to a charge of favoritism toward the nations alienated against Hitler's Nazidom which could not have been sustained at that time. The existing neutrality laws favor Hitler because they prevent the shipment of munitions to England and France. The proposed amendments will enable England and France to obtain any kind of supplies which are available on a "cash and carry" basis Germany, too, can obtain them on the same terms, but will be unable to take advantage of the opportunity by reason of the lack both of cash and the means to carry. This, of course, is a neutrality that works to the disadvantage of Herr Hitler, but the existing neutrality plays into his hands. Unquestionably the people of this country do not choose to lend aid and comfort, under the guise of neutrality, to the Fuehrer and his mad dream of world conquest.

—From Gloucester Free-Press

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Dean of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for September 10

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HEZEKIAH: A KING WHO REMEMBERED GOD

LESSON TEXT—II Chronicles 30:13-22, 31:20, 21.
GOLDEN TEXT—Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.—Psalm 80:3.

The way out—that seems to be the chief object of the search of men. The world is in what seems like hopeless confusion with the imminent danger of a devastating explosion which may in the judgment of some destroy civilization. Politics, economics, education, yes, even religion, have tried their hands at solving the problem and we seem to be worse off than ever. Conditions are much as they were when Hezekiah came to the throne after the death of his wicked father Ahab, who had brought Judah into moral, spiritual, and national declension and disgrace.

The young king brought the nation back within a few years to peace and prosperity. How did he do it? He did not do it. God did it, and He did it because Hezekiah remembered Him and led His people in a return to God, in a recognition of His Word, and to restored worship. God therefore prospered them.

It is significant that while our lesson is about King Hezekiah, his person quickly recedes into the background of our thinking and God is given our attention and our praise. Truly great men do not magnify themselves or their own names, but point by their very greatness to the eternal God to whom they give the glory. Let us consider how God worked through Hezekiah.

I. A Cleansed Temple.

Our lesson calls for attention to the context. Read chapter 29 and learn how the priests and Levites first were directed by the king to cleanse the temple which had suffered degradation and disgrace under King Ahab. Sixteen days were devoted to the thorough cleaning.

That's a good place to start, America, how about cleaning up our churches? Some of them need attention to their physical property, cleaning and rehabilitation. Others are beautifully kept up as far as the building is concerned, but the rubbish is in the teaching and in the manner of worship. Let's clean that up too.

II. A Prepared Priesthood.

Hezekiah gathered the scattered priests and Levites, but he did not permit them to serve in the temple until they had been sanctified and prepared for their work. The men who stand in the sanctuary to direct the worship of God must not only be men of God's own choosing, but they must be cleansed by the blood. As the sacrifices were offered in Hezekiah's day, so for us has One been given in holy sacrifice, and unless those who profess to be His ministers have been cleansed by His blood they have no proper place in His service or in the sanctuary.

III. A Purified People.

The people of the nation were not ready for God's blessing. Some of those in the northern kingdom, to whom the royal invitation had graciously been extended to come to the Passover, scorned the invitation (30:10). There was nothing that could be done for them. But others humbled themselves and came (v. 11), and those in Judah came out in a great assembly (vv. 12, 13).

Observe carefully that this was more than a great homecoming or jubilee event. The people were here to worship God and they needed to be prepared by being "healed" of their sins (vv. 18, 20). They too needed the cleansing blood. It is the only way even now, for "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin" (Heb. 9:22). Sin is what we must be cleansed from and healed of if God is to bless our land.

IV. A Feast of Joy and Blessing.

The nation and its leaders kept the feast not only for seven days, for they were not satisfied with this, but they kept it for seven more days. Think of many of us who can hardly sit through an hour of service on Sunday morning, and if we also go to Sunday school we are quite worn out. It is just "impossible" for us to get to the Sunday evening service or to the midweek prayer meeting. Evidently we do not have the spirit of the people of Hezekiah's day or the joy that they found in their hearts as they worshiped God. If we did, we would seek His house and give ourselves gladly to His worship. The result would be that we would receive some of the great blessings which came to the people of Judah.

The reading of II Chronicles 31 and 32 will reveal how God responded to the cry of His people and how He blessed and prospered them. He is the same God today and He can and will do wondrous things for those who trust and honor Him.

Commonest Faults

Some of the commonest faults of thought and work are those which come from thinking too poorly of our own lives and of that which must rightly be demanded of us.—Bishop Paget.

Polish Troops Off for the Fron

A section of the Polish army's cycling corps as they neared the Polish frontier to face German soldiers. Chief of Poland's combatant forces is General Kasimir Sosnkowski, who is outranked in authority only by President Ignacy Moscicki and Marshal Smigly-Rydz, the Polish strong man.

On Germany's Famed West Wall

Pictured here is Germany's garrison on its famed "west wall"—the former Siegfried line, which faces France. Marksmen man an anti-aircraft gun in its above-ground emplacement on the "wall," awaiting the first sign of bombers or scouting planes.

War Map of Europe

The above map shows nations involved in the present European struggle, with the military, naval and air strength of each of the contestants. England's navy of 2,079,863 tons is considerably greater than the combined navies of Germany and Italy, which total 541,023 tons and 717,920 tons, respectively. France's navy totals 815,531 tons, larger than that of either of the dictator nations.

Prepared for German Tanks

"No tanks" say these effective anti-tank guns of Poland's army. Here the gunners are ready for the advancing German army on the Polish border. Officials of the Polish army place a great deal of confidence in the guns, which have proved successful in halting mechanized forces.

Recognize Them? They're Appomattox School Children of 1919 - Twenty Years Ago

We are indebted to Miss Cornelia Gills for lending us this rare picture of Appomattox school pupils of twenty years ago— 1919! Pick them out if you can! In the picture are such well-known current citizens as Ned Hancock, William Burke, Burke Steele, Ryland Mann, Lewis McDearmon, Mrs. Watt Abbitt, Mrs. J. H. O'Brien, Dr. C. G. O'Brien . . in fact, most of present-day Appomattox! Cut this picture out, and save for your memory book, as "how they looked" back in the days of yore! (Mother Brightleaf has "identified herself" in the picture as we go to press!)

Hixburg

Hixburg, Sept. 5.- The Sunbeam meeting was held Tuesday afternoon with a good attendance.

Mrs. J. R. Marshall, Mrs. C. B. Cabell and son were visitors in Pamplin Thursday afternoon. They visited in the home of Wilson Hix, dec.

Mrs. Hugh Swan, of Bluefield, W. Va., spent several days recently with Mrs. Nathan Dopping. Mr. and Mrs. Dopping and Mrs. Swan spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Young.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynwood Glenn and children, Mr. and Mrs. Myrl Glenn and family, and Mrs. Lelian Gilliam all of Roanoke, have been visiting Mrs. Mollie Glenn. Virginia and Maxine Glenn and Frank Coleman of Washington called in the same home one day last week.

Mrs. Strat Taylor and daughter called on relatives here Thursday.

Mrs. J. B. Abraham, of Alexandria, is spending this week with her sister, Mrs. J. T. Hix and children in the home of Wilson Hix.

Mrs. Beasie Grimstead left Sunday to spend a few days with her daughter in Richmond, before returning to her home in Mississippi.

Watkins McPhillips is spending the week with his grandparents.

Recent guests in the home of J. R. Marshall were Miss Betty Jones, of Crozet, Miss Mariah Tilman, of Unanotteville, Mrs. Gertrude Reynolds and son, Bill, and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Newton, of Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hix visited the Hixes Friday afternoon. They were returning to their home in Silver after spending some time at Norfolk.

Miss Ruth Swan, who has been spending the summer here at her old home, left yesterday to resume her school work.

Mrs. Annie Laurie Moseley and Miss Kate Mars all were visitors in Pamplin on Thursday.

Joe Goin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Witt Goin, is a patient in Southside hospital, Farmville, where he underwent an operation for appendicitis.

Dinner guests Sunday in the home of W. A. Swan were Mr. and Mrs. Joel Jenkins, of Newport News, H. B. Swan, of Bluefield, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Young, of Prospect, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rogers, of Appomattox, Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Dopping, Mrs. C. C. Rosser, and son, Jimmie, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Covington. Other guests in the same home during the day were: Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Swan and daughter, Susan, of Rustburg, Miss Eurlean Rosser, Miss Saul and Shelborn Buck, Willie Hix and Edd McPhillips.

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SLOW SCHOOL ZONE

22% of the pedestrians killed in traffic accidents are under 15 years of age. In one year, some 2,550 children between the ages of 5 to 14 years were killed by automobiles and 90,000 were injured.

Children are impulsive. Caution comes with age. In their play and on their way to and from school, children do not think of the traffic hazards. That is why school zones are often marked to caution drivers.

Many of the 1209 employees of Virginia Public Service Company operate cars and trucks. They are local citizens living in the communities where we do business, members of local organizations with children in local schools. They are, therefore, doubly interested in safety in the streets and highways. Their acceptance of their responsibility is indicated by their record for 1938—1.73 accidents per 100,000 miles, 36 per cent less than the national average for utility companies as a whole.

VIRGINIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

Locust Grove

Locust Grove, September 6.- Jim Megginson, of Norfolk, Sam Megginson, of Pamplin, Miss Riddle Beale, of Lynchburg and Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Beale spent Saturday night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Beale.

Mrs. Iva Lewis returned to her home in Lynchburg Tuesday, after spending some time with her cousin, Mrs. Walker Carnefix.

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Vinston Thornhill were: Sam Megginson, Ben and Jim Megginson, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Beale, Mr. and Mrs. Sammie Paulette and baby, Mr. and Mrs Bennie Beale, Mrs. Ida Beale and Riddle and Tommie Beale, Billie Megginson and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Beale and sons, Walker and James.

The Liberty Chapel missionary society met with Mrs. Lula Beale on Tuesday with a good attendance. It will meet the next time with Mrs. Natalie Robertson.

Master Billy Megginson has returned to his home in Lynchburg, after spending five week with his aunt, Mrs. Lula Beale.

Miss Roberta Coleman spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Coleman. Mrs. Ethel Baldwin returned to her home in Richmond after spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Coleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Robertson moved Monday to Vinton.

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Dowdy, of Lynchburg, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Reynolds.

Mrs. T. H. Marks and daughter, and son, of Lynchburg, Mrs. Watson Brittle and daughter, Frances Earl, of Chase City, spent Thursday evening with Mrs. Lula Beale.

VERA PERSONALS

Vera, September 6.- Mrs. A. B. Abbitt, of Newport News, spent the week-end in the home of Mrs. R. W. Abbitt.

Mrs. W. J. Wingfield, of Vinton also spent the week-end in the same home.

Miss Hazel Coleman spent Sunday afternoon with Miss Onnie Robertson.

Miss Ola Carter left Tuesday for Lynchburg, where will take a business course.

Mrs. R. H. Coleman spent Monday afternoon in the home of Mrs. Jesse Turnes.

Mrs. Lucy Conner is spending the week with Mrs. O. G. Burnette.

Mr. and Mrs. John Harvey, of Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harvey, and Mrs. Eva Hayden, of Richmond, spent Sunday with Mrs. T. C. Harvey.

Mrs. Ida Morris has returned after spending two weeks in Richmond

Miss Betty Jane Haden has returned to Richmond after spending the summer with her aunt and friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Harris, of Chestnut Grove spent Sunday with Mrs. J. J. Chernault.

Mrs. Betty O'Brien, Robert Lee and Walter F. O'Brien, spent Sunday with Miss Edna Chernault and Mrs. R. W. Abbitt.

Mr. and Mrs. Kieth Marshall, of Lynchburg spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. L. A. Coleman.

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Appomattox, Va.

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Monday, Tuesday Sept. 10-11
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